

THREAT HIGHLIGHT

ITAC

CIET

Integrated Terrorism Assessment Centre

Centre intégré d'évaluation du terrorisme

DEVELOPING THREAT

TH 22/08-E // 2022-01-26

SECRET

CANADA, OTTAWA: Possibility of IMVE-driven opportunistic violence on the margins of truck convoy protest s.38

TERRORISM THREAT LEVELS



CANADA

MEDIUM

MEDIUM

Uniformed Personnel

LEGEND: Established Raised Lowered Remains

A convoy of Canadian truck drivers and their supporters are travelling from various cities to Ottawa to protest a federal vaccine mandate for truck drivers crossing the Canadian-United States (US) border. They are expected to arrive in Ottawa around 28 and 29 January. s.38

While this is intended by the organizers to be a peaceful protest, s.38 open source reporting indicates that prominent ideologically motivated violent extremism (IMVE) actors in Canada have seized upon this protest to advocate for their own ideological objectives and some have expressed interest in attending the protest in Ottawa this coming weekend. (S)

s.38

s.38 "...I would like to see our own January 6 event...see some of those truckers plow through that 16 foot wall..." s.38

s.38

Law enforcement agencies are aware and actively engaged in addressing potential security concerns. (S)

ASSESSMENTS

- ITAC assesses it likely that Canadian IMVE adherents will insinuate themselves with the protest actions in Ottawa over the period of 28 and 29 January. It is possible that opportunistic, low-level violence will occur in Ottawa over the weekend, based on the presence of IMVE adherents and law enforcement. A coordinated, complex terrorist attack is highly unlikely. s.38
- ITAC assesses that a large scale attack or planned storming of Parliament or other federal locations is unlikely. s.38
- IMVE adherents could leverage a destabilized crowd to spur on violence and destruction of government property through mob mentality dynamics, with the most likely target of violence being law enforcement or government officials near prominent federal buildings. s.38

BACKGROUNDER ON PROTEST CONVOY

The Government of Canada recently announced a federal mandate for truckers crossing the border to be vaccinated by 15 January 2022. This led to the so-called Freedom Convoy 2022 protest being organised through social media. Various convoys started across Canada on 22 January with the goal of arriving in Ottawa over the weekend of 28 and 29 January. s.38

s.38

DEFINITIONS and HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS are located at the last page.

Canada

- ITAC assesses that it is possible that protestors, including IMVE adherents, could use rudimentary capabilities, such as trucks, cargo and fuel, to cause disruption to infrastructure and destruction of property. s.38
- We note that the majority of protesters are exercising their right to protest peacefully, with a very small minority taking advantage of the situation because it fits within their current worldview of government overreach, particularly relating to COVID-19 pandemic health measures. s.38

Terrorism Threat Levels

Canada ↔ MEDIUM ↔ MEDIUM Threat levels as of 1 December 2021 s.38

-  An act of terrorism **COULD OCCUR**. s.38
-  There is intent *and* capability from both domestic and international extremist actors to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. s.38
-  An act of terrorism directly affecting **uniformed personnel** in Canada **COULD OCCUR**. s.38
- Intelligence indicates that an individual or group **within Canada** or abroad has the intent *and* capability to commit an act of terrorism in Canada. There remain individuals both in Canada and abroad who advocate violence and aspire to carry out terrorist attacks domestically. ITAC notes that inspired individuals typically act alone or in relatively small groups, and that attack planning can progress quickly, and may go undetected. **ITAC assesses that an act of terrorism could occur in Canada.** s.38
- Propaganda identifying **uniformed personnel** as potential targets continues to be published online. ITAC notes there are indications of intent to target uniformed personnel in Canada. Notwithstanding, ITAC assesses that, at present, uniformed personnel are more likely to be targeted incidentally while performing their duties. **ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism affecting uniformed personnel in Canada could occur.** s.38

s.38





ITAC's Probability Yardstick tool contributes to the understanding of the threat by providing readers with a common understanding of ITAC's probability statements.

THREAT LEVEL

LEVELS	DESCRIPTIONS	LANGUAGE
CRITICAL		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY LIKELY and COULD OCCUR IMMINENTLY .
HIGH	Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has the intent AND capability to commit an act of terrorism.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is LIKELY .
MEDIUM		ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism COULD OCCUR .
LOW	Intelligence indicates that an individual or group within Canada or abroad has either the intent OR capability to commit an act of terrorism.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is POSSIBLE BUT UNLIKELY .
VERY LOW	There is no intelligence indicating a terrorist threat.	ITAC assesses that a violent act of terrorism is HIGHLY UNLIKELY .

ITAC's Threat Level chart defines each threat level and describes the assessed likelihood of a violent act of terrorism. ITAC uses both quantitative and qualitative analysis in applying terrorism threat levels. Threat levels are determined based on several factors, including current intelligence, recent events, and the assessed intent, capabilities and opportunity available to terrorist groups. ITAC cautions that its information may be incomplete and, regardless of the threat level applied, a violent act of terrorism may occur with little or no warning. See Confidence Levels.

CONFIDENCE LEVEL

CRITERIA	INTELLIGENCE	SOURCES	ASSUMPTION	REASONING
HIGH	multiple reports; well-corroborated information; range of reporting types; historical understanding of the issue; good understanding of the risk of deceptive reporting	proven and accurate	few; minimal intelligence gaps	strong logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
MEDIUM	multiple reports; partially corroborated plausible information; some historical understanding of the issue, some risk of undetected deceptive reporting	proven and semi-proven sources that have been fairly accurate	several, not critical to the analysis; some intelligence gaps	includes weak logical inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodology
LOW	few or single-source reports; uncorroborated information; some historical understanding of the issue; considerable risk of undetected deceptive reporting	semi-proven sources that have been somewhat accurate, or new, unproven sources	many; some critical to the analysis	dominated by weak inferences developed through analytic techniques or repeatable methodologies

ITAC's Confidence Levels chart outlines statements that accompany each ITAC product to inform the reader of ITAC's degree of confidence in its assessments. These levels are based on an evaluation of the available intelligence, the sources, and ITAC's assumptions and reasoning.

TERRORIST GROUP CAPABILITIES

ADVANCED		Capable of sophisticated attacks, including against hard targets
MODERATE		Capable of high profile attacks against soft targets
GENERAL		Capable of simple attacks

ITAC's Terrorist Group Capabilities chart describes the capabilities of a terrorist group to conduct an attack in a particular country where the group has already demonstrated intent. This metric is based on the methodology used to establish ITAC's terrorism threat levels. For the purposes of this metric, capability is defined as "the ability, capacity, competence or qualification" of a group to perpetrate a particular attack.

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Any feedback should be directed via CTSN email to: **s.38**

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